




**MEMORANDUM
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR**

DATE: April 24, 2006

TO: Chairman Joe A. Martinez
Members, Board of County Commissioners


FROM: Carlos Alvarez, Mayor
Miami-Dade County

SUBJECT: Proposed ordinance relating to senior exemptions for building permits, fees and charges – Board of County Commissioner's (4-25-06) Agenda Item 7(A)

As you know, one of my administration's top priorities has been the wellbeing of our senior citizens. Given this fact, I was pleased to see the Board of County Commissioner's (Board) continued support for our County's seniors. Agenda item 7(A), which calls for the exemption of certain fees associated with the building and permitting process for eligible seniors, is a noble effort to promote the safety of our community. By helping to facilitate efforts whose aim is compliance with building codes we can continue to encourage the extensive work we have put into improving the building department and permitting process, while assisting some of the neediest of our residents.

I recommend that, rather than the \$20,000 income cap currently under consideration, a \$23,500 cap be used in keeping with this year's threshold for the Senior Citizen Exemption. In addition, I support its creation as a pilot program; however, I would also encourage the Board to consider the inclusion of a provision that will help to limit the County's possible financial exposure. Since it is not possible, at this time, to accurately predict the fiscal impact of the ordinance, I would suggest that a provision be included in the measure that would require Board approval if the cost of implementation exceeds a predetermined amount.

I respectfully request that the two provisions mentioned above (adjusting the income cap and calling for Board approval of the program's budget should it exceed a predetermined amount) be considered, prior to final adoption. I applaud the Board's initiative and willingness to work for the benefit of those members of our community that have given so much over so many years. I look forward to continued opportunities to work together to improve the quality of life for our community.

c: George Burgess, County Manager
Harvey Ruvlin, Clerk of the Courts
Murray A. Greenberg, County Attorney
Kay Sullivan, Director, Clerk of the Board